

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor 9:00 A.M.  
Christ Church, Duncannon  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP September 9, 1973

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 472  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to  
all who call to you: hear us as we humbly  
confess our sin and implore your mercy and  
forgiveness. We have broken your laws by  
our deeds and our words. We confess our  
disobedience and ingratitude, our pride  
and selfishness, and all failures and short-  
comings toward you and our fellow man. Have  
mercy on us, Father, that we may enjoy a  
newness of life. Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.  
\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture --- II Peter 1:12-21  
\*The Gloria Patri  
The Pastoral Prayer  
The Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer  
The Hymn of Meditation 290  
The Sermon --- "Inspired or Inflated?"  
The Sermon Prayer  
\*The Hymn of Response 467  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude  
\*Congregation Stands

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Consistory will meet on Monday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 PM.

The Heidelberg Men's Class will meet on  
Tuesday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

Women's Guild will meet on Fri. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>  
in the home of Romaine Shearer at 7:30 PM.  
Pearl Lepperd will be the leader.

MARY ROWELL

A CRUSADE FOR CHRIST, DUNCANNON

CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1973

"Revive Thy work O Lord! And make Thy servants bold;  
Convict of sin, and work once more as in the days of old.

Revive Thy work, O Lord, come now and answer prayer;  
O come in Holy Spirit power, and save men everywhere."

Oswald J. Smith

The P.T.P. Singers

Announcements

Offering

Solo - Carol Rissinger

Hymns 152, 77

The Evening Message: Dr. Warren Sickman

Hymn 233

Benediction

We thank everyone who helped to make this service possible. We thank God for any and all who may have been helped and we pray that the love of Christ may endure in each and every heart. Please plan to attend the remaining services and bring your friends and neighbors.

Call to Worship: O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord all the earth! For great is the  
Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty  
are before Him; strength and beauty are in His  
Sanctuary.

Call to Confession: Come let us reason together  
says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet  
they shall be white as snow; though they are red  
like crimson they shall become like wool. Let us  
confess our sins.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: This is the message we have  
heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is  
light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we  
walk in the light as He is in the light, we have  
fellowship with one another, and the blood of  
Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. Amen.

We thank everyone who helped to make this  
service possible. We thank God for the love  
and grace that have been poured out upon  
all who have been helped and we pray  
that the love of Christ may abound in each  
and every heart. Please plan to attend the  
next service and bring your friends  
and neighbors.



"Inspired Or Inflated?"

Text: II Peter 1:20,21, "First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

I once read somewhere that psychologists and psychiatrists could tell much about a person by ~~xxx~~ not only by what the person reveals about themselves, but by the sleeping and eating, and reading habits of a person. A psychiatrist or psychologist would not have much fun looking at my eating or sleeping habits, but I imagine they would have a field day studying my reading habits. I am what would probably be called an inveterate late reader. By this I mean that I am almost always reading articles and magazines that are several months old. Beside my chair in the living room are several back issues of the <sup>Sunday</sup> comics, waiting patiently until I get around to reading them.

This past week I was reading a late issue of A.D. the church magazine. By late I mean the June issue. I ran into several interesting things. First I read the letters to the editor, and there I learned that I should have read an article in the April issue, before I threw it out. And throw it out I must have for I have January, February, March and May, but no April. But nevertheless, the letters were in response to an article written by Frederick Buechner entitled, "ABC's of Salvation."

Two of the letters about this article took the author to task for his stand and one supported him. First let us look at the supportive letter.

Read same.#1

Next let us look at an opposing viewpoint. Read #2.

We are living through a period that calls our attention to the two words found in our sermon title this morning. We speak of people being inspired actors or actresses. We speak of people being inspired business people. We speak of people being inspired this and inspired that. We speak of the word inflation. We see that our money is inflated. Prices

everywhere are inflated. We speak of footballs, or basketballs being inflated. Thus we mean that ~~it~~ things such as footballs or basketballs are filled up, or are inflated with air.

Thus we could look at our present day and age and how it views the Bible and ask whether the Bible is Inspired? Or is it perhaps Inflated? Is it from God? Or is it filled with hot air?

Many people would have us believe the latter. Also in the AD issue about which I have been speaking, is an article about a woman who has recently been ordained as a minister in the UCC. She is now an associated pastor of a church in Los Angeles. This woman has changed from being a suburban housewife to the ministry later in life. She almost dropped out of the church about 25 years ago because of the way the Sunday lessons were being taught. She was a teacher and she said she could not bring herself to accept things such as God speaking out the burning bush for instance when He spoke to Moses.

Through the kindness of a minister during the time of the death of ~~her~~ a two month old baby, helped to get her active in the church again. But she said she is still fighting the literal interpretation of the Bible. Now here we have a woman who is striving to lead people and her stand is that it must be proven in order to be believed.

The author of Hebrews tells us that the Word of God is sharper than anytwo edged sword. We are speaking of a book that has outlived by many many years all of the people who have been inspired to write it. We are talking of a book that has been on the best seller list for more years than anyone can count. I believe that it is good to search the scriptures and to strive to get at the roots of it. But I believe that this must be done with understanding and with a real desire to get at what God is having put forth.

On ~~Fri~~ Friday I went to the hospital to visit one of our members and she told me, "I thought you said Billy Graham would be



preaching from Korea last night? I was disappointed. I turned it on and he was preaching in Atlanta."

Now here was a person who believed me, and had faith that what I said was right. Now this is a good example of how we can accept what others tell us. Or we can accept what we read in the newspaper, or in another book. But ~~we~~ there are those who want to question everything in the Bible because there are some things that cannot be proven, or cannot be shown outright and so must be accepted by faith. Now I am not implying that the woman I visited in the hospital does not believe in the Bible, because I am sure she does. But what I am striving to show is that it is so very easy to accept what we are told personally ~~than what we can~~ <sup>AND YET FIND IT</sup> ~~read that~~ <sup>VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT WHAT,</sup> ~~was written~~ so many centuries ago.

~~Read #3~~  
Now the third letter against the article by Mr. Buechner really hits the Read #3 issue squarely. How anyone could ever write such drivel is beyond anyone's wildest comprehension. But you can readily see that this type of thinking is heresy of the highest order.

It is this type of false analyzing of Scripture that leads to the unheard of things going on in churches today. Why bother with God? We can do our own thing and we do not need ~~to~~ even believe in God. Isn't this the height of ridiculous thinking? Then the Rev. Philip Chase closes his letter with what I believe is a classic answer to Mr. Buechner.  
Read end of #3.

Here is the entire gist of the purpose of the entire Bible. Creation, man's fall, God's attempts to get man on the right track time after time, And then man's refusal to believe and follow God as he should, All of this ~~leads~~ <sup>LED</sup> to the necessity for God to send His Son into the world, to live, to suffer, to die, and to ~~overcome~~ take our sins upon himself.

~~And~~ To be resurrected from the dead thus overcoming death and the grave and making eternal life possible. This is the purpose and the meaning of the BIBLE.











Ralph C. Link  
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(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.